

River Valley Alliance Church
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2016

Present: Pastor Caleb Atkins, Josh Barnet, Bruce Cochrane Matt Colosky, Charlene Flint, Pastor Michael Golemi, Joe Haberkorn, Justin Roberts, Greg Schroeder, Ron Sokovich, Jeremy Walker, Robin Walker, Pastor Dave Zimmermann. Michael Friedl for budget discussion.

Absent:

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. in the church library with a devotion by Pastor Zimmermann on Jeremiah 33:14 regarding "Christmas Cheer". Pastor Zimmermann opened the meeting in prayer.

Previous Minutes: Bruce Cochrane made a **motion** to approve the November 17, 2016 minutes. Second. Motion carried.

Pastoral Reports: Pastor Zimmermann: A written report was submitted. January will be a big month in moving forward on Vision 2022, Increasing Impact. Pastor Zimmermann will be meeting with individuals and couples to get more input. There is a buzz in the congregation that God can and will do great things through River Valley. For the December Sundays, the pastors have been and will continue to focus on Part 2 of the Gospel of John 1 – "Down to Earth: The Word became Flesh". Then in January, Part 3 will examine the "I Am" statements of Jesus. Betsy Ellsworth has been working on the scheduling and the logistics of the new Assimilation Program. "Christmas at the Parsonage" Open House will be held on Saturday, December 17, 3-7 pm. Everyone is invited. Discussion was held regarding protocol regarding the closing of church in the event of inclement weather. It was decided that it would be announced via email, website, Facebook and WTMJ radio.

Pastor Atkins: A written report was submitted. In late January or early February, Pastor Atkins will be hosting a small group leader training for those who are already leading and for those who would like to get involved in leading small groups. This training will look to improve teaching and outreach effectiveness. The implementation of the Connection Team and the planned outreach to guests will help provide a platform to invite new people to our existing small groups. The Fall semester Discipleship classes have officially ended until after the new year. January 8th will be the first Sunday of the Winter/Spring semester. Classes will include the continuation of 1st/2nd Peter and The Great Commission (church history). New classes will be the 7-week series Empowered (evangelism and outreach) and Explore the Bible: Joshua, Judges and Ruth (will begin after Empowered). Pastor Atkins has met with leaders for women and for men to plan events for most of 2017. Pamphlets with dates and information will be updated every 6 months. Pastor Atkins met with Justin Roberts to begin to make the mentoring ministry a reality. A short informational meeting will be held January 22 after first and second services to develop connection with possible mentors. We will continue to pray and seek God's leading in how to build this ministry at River Valley.

Pastor Golemi: A written report was submitted. Pastor Golemi is looking forward to the high school retreat coming up the end of January. This is an excellent opportunity for him to get to know students more personally. He requests prayer that the Lord would send qualified leaders to accompany him on the trip. Pastor Golemi handed out a survey to the high school students to make sure that their needs were being met. The students found the degree of difficulty to be appropriate and challenging, but felt they wanted more interaction. Pastor Golemi has discontinued for now using the Sticky Faith Curriculum for the high school youth group as he felt they needed something a bit different right now.

The middle school youth group continues to cover the basics of the Christian faith for the past several weeks. Pastor Golemi will be conducting an afternoon of leadership training in February. Pastor Golemi will be studying the book of James either in Sunday School or youth group. Discussion was held on electronic ways to communicate with the youth.

Children's Ministry Report: A written report was submitted. Winter curriculum began on December 4. The numbers are holding steady at an average of 28 kids. Discovery Land kids will be singing at both Christmas Eve services. Christmas Eve bags will be handed out to children grade 5 and under. Mrs. Walker will be spending time considering the children's ministry volunteer applications. She will be determining whose application needs to be run through the background checks again. Some churches suggest this should be done every 3-5 years.

Service and Benevolence Report: A written report was submitted. Deposits of \$1,026.50 were made. There were no disbursements for November. The end-of-month balance for the Benevolent Fund is \$1,964.73. The Deacons and Deaconesses set up and served during the Praise and Pie celebration. The food collected before Greater Things was donated to the local food pantry. Several deacons as well as a few others from the church helped the Cederbergs move to a new house. Discussions have been ongoing regarding food and gas cards and the best way to distribute them. Teresa has been asking if individuals would like prayer when a request is made and that has been well received. The Deacons and Deaconesses will begin to look at the meal for the Teen Challenge group on January 22.

Elder Report: A written report was submitted. At the December 8, 2016 Elder meeting, Pastor Atkins presented a rough outline for Adult Sunday School over the next few years. Ten new members were approved and received into membership on Sunday, December 11.

Finance Report: A written report was submitted. November, 2016 revenues exceeded expenses by over \$6,000. As of November 30, River Valley has collected 0.90% more than anticipated and has spent about 3% less than expected for this time. The location of the anticipated income and expense differs from the budget. There is more general income and ministry income than projected and less compensation cost than expected.

Impacts (Missions) Report: A written report was submitted. Great Commission Fund YTD giving is 8% ahead of RVAC's target. Thirty-six adults and teens attended the Rollout for the Unity of Faith 2017. Fourteen individuals (12 adults and 2 teens) have turned in applications. The first team training meeting will be January 8, 2017. The congregational survey that ended 11/1/16 showed that 54.5% of respondents correctly identified Thailand as River Valley's targeted mission field. 14.3% incorrectly answered Taiwan. Debbie Vik was identified 23.7% of the time, and Emmi Hanus 18.3% of the time, as International Workers with whom River Valley has a working relationship. The District Converge wants to meet every quarter with the goal of increasing awareness and support of International Alliance Missions.

Trustee Report: A written report was submitted. On December 15, 2016 Midwest Electric cut a slot through the existing concrete floor slab to install conduit line below slab for the cost of \$750. Y's Way Flooring will begin installing the new kitchen floor on December 27 or 28, 2016. Preliminary pricing was obtained for all phases of remodeling that would need to be accomplished in 2017. Electrical (new 100-amp panel installed, wiring, outlets) \$3,000; new kitchen cabinets, \$12,000; Plumbing (new sink, faucets, garbage disposal, piping) \$2,000, for a total of \$17,000. He requests budgeted amount be raised from \$14,000 to \$17,000. River Valley would need to buy out its old contract with Advance

Disposal for approximately \$1,300 and pay Bob Mudler a \$1,000 fee. Changing the contract would save \$3,000 over three years. Joe Haberkorn made a **motion** that we cancel the current contract with Advanced Disposal and to go through Bob Mudler's Total Waste Solutions, Inc. Second. Carried. The new sign at the Welcome Center was bid at \$500. The actual cost was \$595. Greg Schroeder made a **motion** to pay the \$595 to Oconomowoc Sign Company for the new sign. Second. Carried.

Jeremy Walker made a **motion** to accept all ministry area reports. Second. Motion carried. Each of the reports in their entirety is available in the church office upon request.

Old Business: Report of Constitution & Bylaw Committee: There will be meetings held in January with congregation regarding changes to the Bylaws. Nominating Committee: Most of the open positions have names to them, but are not finalized yet. There are two elder positions open. There are two persons willing to fill these positions, but one of these would like a third person on ballot so that the congregation can choose. They are still looking for the 3rd person. Annual Meeting: Congregation members will receive formal invitation to annual meeting. Bruce Cochrane made a **motion** to have the Annual Meeting on January 29. Budget: Discussion was held regarding the Impacts budget and short-term missions trip. There will be a building project during short-term mission project for \$5,000. Greg Schroeder made a **motion** to accept the Impacts budget with \$32,000 income, \$37,000 expense, with \$5,000 coming from the general fund. The \$32,000 is to be self-funded. Greg S. made a **motion** to approve the 2017 budget with an income of \$559,000 and total expense of \$559,000 with any surplus going into the sinking fund targeted to "Build the Future" expenses. Second. Discussion. Motion carried.

New Business: Withholding for pastors: Greg Schroeder made a motion to approve clergy housing allowance requests and withholding information for 403(b), State and Federal Taxes in the following amounts: Pastor Zimmerman, \$5,300; Pastor Atkins, \$12,500; Pastor Golemi, \$9,600. Second. Motion carried. Storage of GB Minutes for Year: The Secretary was instructed to furnish Greg Schroeder with the Governing Board Minutes from 2016 for permanent storage. Annual Reports: The Annual Reports from each Ministry Area are due as soon as possible, no later than January 1. Christmas Eve offering: Discussion was held regarding doing something special with a Christmas Eve offering. There has not traditionally been an offering on Christmas Eve. It was decided to once again not have an offering.

The Pastors were excused from the meeting.

Ron Sokovich made a **motion** for a de minimis, non-cash gratuity for pastoral and staff employees not to exceed a specified limit per recipient. Second. Motion carried. After said gratuities are given the GB will amend the minutes to reflect the approved expense.

Justin closed the meeting in prayer. Justin Roberts made a **motion** to adjourn. Second. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m. The next Governing Board meeting will be held Jan. 19, 2017 at 6 p.m.

The minutes contained in this report pend final approval by the Governing Board at the next formal meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Flint
Governing Board Secretary
River Valley Alliance Church